

EMMA A. WOOD, WIDOW OF GEO. W. F. WOOD.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 314]

MARCH 9, 1860.

Mr. C. D. MARTIN, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *May* 29, 1858.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions adopt the following Senate report.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, *February* 16, 1857.

Mr. THOMSON, of New Jersey, made the following report.

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was recommitted the petition of Mrs. Emma A. Wood, praying Congress to grant her a pension, beg leave to report:

That the petitioner sets forth that her husband, Brevet Major Geo. W. F. Wood, late of the United States army, was a cadet, and entered the army at the age of nineteen years, in 1838, and died at Indianola, Texas, November 8, 1854, while engaged in the military service of the United States; that he served in the Florida war until its close; was stationed at different northern posts until the spring of 1846, when he went to Mexico; was in the battle at Monterey, afterwards joined General Scott's division, and was engaged in the "army of invasion" under that officer during the war, after which he returned to New Orleans, bringing up the rear guard; that in consequence of having contracted in Mexico a disease known as "chronic diarrhœa," while in the line of his duty, he was confined for several months in New Orleans, and that he never recovered, nor was entirely free from said disease. He was appointed assistant quartermaster March 3, 1847; and subsequent to his sickness at New Orleans he was on duty at Jefferson barracks until 1849, when he was ordered to accompany the troops stationed on the Oregon route; he remained at Fort Kearney until 1851, when he was ordered to the principal depot, in advance of Fort Washita, west of Arkansas, on upper Red river; he arrived at Preston in October, 1851, and remained until the fall of 1852. He

was then ordered to Austin, Texas, where he remained until the spring of 1854, when he was ordered to Indianola, Texas, to take charge of the depot at that point in April, 1854, where he continued on duty until his death in November of that year. The following extracts from an official statement of Colonel Charles Thomas, assistant quartermaster general United States army, now of the War Department, dated January 10, 1857, which is now before this committee, after corroborating the above statement of petitioner, says: "It would seem from the above brief statement that the deceased returned from Mexico after the close of the war, and continued on duty without a leave of absence for upwards of six years; that he served with distinction in Mexico is well established, having been brevetted a major (date August 20, 1847) for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Cherubusco." "At the last three stations where he was on duty, Preston, Austin, and Indianola, Texas, there being no troops, he was unable to avail himself of the advice of army surgeons, except as they may have occasionally passed those posts, and at Indianola, where he died, I doubt whether he had even a casual opportunity of consulting one. The immediate cause of his death was reported 'yellow fever,' and I think it probable the disease proved fatal from his previous state of health."

Doctor J. H. Baldwin, of Indianola, testifies, under oath, that he attended the late Major George W. F. Wood in his last illness as his physician; that he died of yellow fever; and, in his "opinion, the fatal termination of his disease was occasioned by chronic diarrhœa, under which he had labored for a long time, and which, he informed me previous to his death, was contracted while on duty in Mexico during the late war with that republic." Surgeon S. T. Moore, of West Point, certifies that he "consulted with Quartermaster Major Geo. W. F. Wood, at St. Louis, Missouri, in the winter of 1848 and 1849, on account of a chronic dysentery contracted by him during his period of service with the army in Mexico, and from which attack of dysentery he had never entirely recovered. He was under treatment for some time, with little or no benefit. Chronic dysentery is difficult of cure, and induces a very precarious condition. A patient suffering from this disease, going to a hot and unhealthy climate, is liable to a return of his disease; and if any disease is contracted, the chances of cure are greatly diminished; and this was the condition of the late Major Wood, who died at Indianola, Texas."

After a careful investigation of the evidence presented by petitioner, your committee are of the opinion that the application of Mrs. Emma A. Wood for a pension is one that deserves the favorable consideration of Congress, and report the accompanying bill.